

REMARKS

The specification is currently objected to in the office action summary. Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 12, 14, and 15 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat. No. 5,299,314 issued to Gates et al. (herein Gates). Claims 2 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gates. Claims 7 and 18 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gates in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,550,957 issued to Davidson Jr. et al (herein Davidson). Claims 2-4, 7-9, 12-15 and 18 have been cancelled without prejudice. Claims 19-20 have been added. As such, claims 1, 5, 6, 10, 11, 16, 17, and 19-20 are currently pending. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application as amended in view of the following remarks.

Objection of the Specification

The Office Action summary includes an objection to the specification. However, there is no mention of the objection in the detailed action. Applicant is unable to respond to the objection. As such, Applicant respectfully requests Examiner provide specific reasoning or withdraw the objection of the specification.

Objection of Claim 8

Claim 8 is currently objected to for minor informalities. Claim 8 has been canceled without prejudice. As such, the objection of Claim 8 for minor informalities is moot. Applicant respectfully requests the objection be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §102 Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 3, 4, 8, 9, 12, 14 and 15 are currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Gates. Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 12, 14 and 15 are canceled without prejudice. As such, the 35 U.S.C §102 rejections of Claims 3, 4, 8, 9, 12, 14 and 15 are moot. Applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn.

Amended claim 1 recites the following method:

transmitting a first network port packet data signal to a first remote device over a network connection;

receiving a second network port packet data signal from the first remote device comprising a busy signal and the address of a second remote device on the network.

As such, amended claim 1 includes the limitation of receiving a network port packet data signal comprising a busy signal and the address of a remote device on the network. The Office Action has cited Gates as disclosing a network adaptor configured to connect a local area network cable to a computer via the computer's parallel port. Gates does not disclose receiving any signal comprising a busy signal and the address of a remote device on the network. As such, claim 1 is patentable over Gates as every limitation of the claim is not disclosed in cited references. Applicant respectfully requests the 35 U.S.C. §102(b) rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103 Claim Rejections

Claims 2 and 13 are currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gates. Claims 7 and 18 are currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Gates in view of Davidson. Claims 2, 7, 13 and 18 are

canceled without prejudice. As such, the 35 U.S.C. §103 rejection of Claims 2, 7, 13 and 18 is moot. Applicant respectfully requests the rejections be withdrawn.

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CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that for at least the foregoing reasons, all rejections have been overcome. Applicant submits all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. Any fees in connection with this communication may be directed to Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 11/14/03



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